

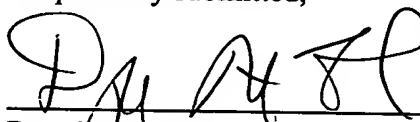
REMARKS

Please enter the foregoing amendments prior to consideration of the claims. Claims 51-89 remain pending following entry of the amendment. Claims 19-50 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 51-89 are supported in the specification and do not present new matter. For example, treatment of a precursor film with interdigitating rollers heated to a temperature of 160°F to about 220°F is discussed in the application on page 14.

In the Office Action dated October 11, 2000, the Examiner rejected the article claims (claims 19-50) on grounds that those article claims were not patentably different from U.S. Patent No. 5,865,926 (Wu '926) and U.S. Patent No. 5,055,338 (Sheth '338). Applicant has canceled the article claims and included process claims. Applicant submits that neither Wu '926 nor Sheth '338 discloses or suggests a process that includes passing a precursor film between interdigitating rollers heated to a temperature of 160°F to about 220°F. In Wu '926, a laminate is passed between incremental stretch rollers maintained at an ambient or room temperature of about 70°F to about 90°F. (Col. 7, lines 29-34.) Wu '926 teaches that by stretching the laminate at "ambient or room temperature" the desired microporosity or breathability is obtained. (Col. 2, lines 48-54 and Col. 3, lines 5-8.) Wu '926 does not suggest using higher temperatures or the recited temperatures of 160°F to about 220°F. Likewise, Sheth '338 does not disclose or suggest the recited temperatures, but actually discloses that the WVTR of a film is inversely related to the stretching temperature. (Col. 6, line 61 – Col. 7, line 8.)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claims 51-89 are patentable, and requests allowance of the claims. If any informal matters need to be addressed, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 713-623-4844.

Respectfully submitted,



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